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Orville R. Stone

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Date

July 7, 1974

Orville R. Stone
(Signature - Interviewee)

Address

Liberty, W. Va.

Date

July 7, 1974

Ronnie C. Phelps
(Signature - Witness)

ORAL HISTORY

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Date July 7, 1974

Geida Stone
(Signature-Interviewee)
Liberty W. Va.
Address

ate July 7, 1974

James E. Morrow
(Signature-Witness)



ORAL HISTORY
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Date July 7, 1974

Olue Craig
(Signature-Interviewee)

Nitro, W. Va
Address

Date July 7, 1974

Russ E. Helzer
(Signature-Witness)

I interviewed my great uncle, Orville R. Stone. He was born September 14, 1903 and resides on Valley Hereford Farm at Liberty, West Virginia.

On the tape also are my grandmother, Olive Craig who is 74 years old and Oeida Stone, aged 68.

Approximately 45 minutes of the tape was recorded. Some of the subjects covered are: preserving foods, recreation, courting, holidays, funerals, how certain things were done in the past, education, superstitions and medicines.

Ranee: West Virginia, and he was born on September 14, 1903. Today's date is July 7th, and I am a student in the Class of Appalachian Cultures, and my name is Ranee Phelps. Okay, Orville, I'd like for you to tell me anything that you can think of that happened in the past. Anything that you think might be of interest to us.

Orville: Well, I can go back to the year 1910. Now, I've got a little recollection of that date. On that date there was a flood in Putnam County, Putnam and Jackson County, ah, quite destructive. The store building at, ah, Rock Castle turned around, clothing was washed down the creek, a bridge was washed out on Eighteen Mile Creek. Then, at about 1911 was a very dry year. Cattle was sold here for five cents a pound, and the day after they were taken away it went to raining, and the price jumped a couple of cents on the pound, and people thought they were ruined. Then, there is a little blank here. I don't think much of 1912 other than Dr. Hatfield was elected governor. That's about all I can remember of that date. Then, we go up to 1916. The Second, the First World War was coming on. I was, ah, 13 years old at that time. Mostly young men here were drafted in the Army, and I was one of the boys that was left on the farm. We had quite a large farm. Did all the work with horses, and, ah, farmed in the old way. Ah, put up our hay by pitchfork, hauled it in and pitched it off the wagons in the barn. Didn't use any of the modern methods. Didn't have any trucks or tractors. The first automobiles in the country were Model T's. That was about 1916. And, when the first automobile came through, it was a travelling salesman. The horses, they just scared them. They took to the back end of the field, and whenever you passed this thing on the road, you had to stop. They had to stop the car, and people get out and take a hold of the horses' bridles and lead them past it. And, it was, the people would run to the door when they heard this automobile coming to see it. (Laughs) I remember at home, you know, thought that was an exciting thing and frightened horses. The horses near to the road broke to the back end of the fields. Ah, got hung up there on the hill. They was muddy and, you know, the roads was bad. And, my brother went and got finally got the horses in the barn and hooked them to it and pulled that car up the hill. [Ranee: Uh huh.] And, a lot of times getting them hooked up to it, they was afraid of that thing. And, I started driving the Model T in 1918 and part of the experience in driving then on the roads we had.

Ranee: Tell me a little about, a bit about your education.

Orville: Well, ah, schools we had was one-room schools, and we didn't get, we weren't hauled to school and furnished books and furnished our, ah, food. We carried our water from wherever we could get it, springs or cisterns or wells anyone that would let us have the water. [Ranee: Uh huh.] And, ah, the schoolrooms were poorly heated, and all the light was artificial light. We didn't have no electric lights or anything. An old, ah, pot-bellied stove in the center of the room was all the heat we had, and at times about all had to get around that stove to keep warm. And, ah, the schools only lasted about five and six months when I went to school. And, ah, many of us had to walk a mile or more to get to these schools, and we didn't have, ah, well, we, we didn't have the clothes that they have now, Olive. [Olive: No.] Gum shoes or gum boots was what I wore through snow and mud and rain. Now, would you like to do that?

Ranee: No, not too well (laughs).

Orville: Well, if I'd tell you about, ah, some of water that we used at school. We, I was down at Scott Jones' one time, and, ah, one of the school men came in there, and he proved a point by me. He said, "Orville, do you remember when we used to carry water out to the old school very well?" I said, "Yes, sir." Well, he up and told about it, and he said it would be brown. And, you don't want me to tell why do you?

Ranee: Yeah. I think it would be a good idea.

Orville: Well, it was just a walled-up cistern, you know, rock and some boards on top, and you just move these boards back and take the chain, hook it to your bucket, and let it down in the well. And, he cleaned out his barn, the man that owned it, and threw a big pile of cow manure onto it and when it rained, that water would actually be brown, and Scott proved that to this, ah, this school man. He just stood there and looked. I said, "Scott, you're telling the facts. We're, I've helped you carry many a bucket." And, no one said anything about it. They just let it go. But, I said, now, all those children most of them, ah, still living. There's been a few died in the last year or two. They did not die from that sickness or anything. They contacted some (laughter). They was just as healthy as they could be.

Ranee: Yeah.

Oeida: Well, now you better go on with your experience, now, going to school, Orville [Orville; Well.], how many years you taught school.

Orville: My first, ah, high school work I did at Huntington one summer. Then, I finally got into Buffalo in the old academy building that was built in 1849. Had two rooms in the high school, and my distance from that was, I expect, 12 mile, and I had to board in there and pay my board through the week and then walk home on the weekend and walk back on Sunday evening.

Ranee: Huh. How old were you?

Orville: Well, I was, ah, about 18, 19.

Ranee: That was your high school?

Orville: That was high school. And, then I just kep on, and I graduated at, ah, New River State in 1925. I got my diploma from New River State.

Ranee: Huh. Now, was that from college?

Orville: No, the high school.

Ranee: High school.

Orville: I never did get, ah, I lacked about 15 hours getting a degree. (Inaudible) hard knocks [Ranee: Yeah.] hard work, plenty of it.

Ranee: Okay, now, how many years have you taught school?

Orville: About 44 and a half.

Ranee: And, tell me about that.

Orville: Well, most of it was in a one-room school out in these hills. And, you'd walk from one to two and three miles in the same kinds of schools that I went to school in. But, the teacher was supreme in those days. They didn't condemn and tell him how to teach the school. He, he was, ah, looked up to kinda maybe a

little superior. But, anyhow, I never had much trouble with anyone coming in and telling me how to have the school only maybe once or twice. In the last five or six years I taught in a five-room school. I was principal two years, and I quit in, ah, 1969 in January, and I've haven't been very silent since (laughter). I still have an interest in school and the things have changed. [Ranee: Uh huh.] Ah, I think they, if I can record this, I think they ought to give the people a change.

Ranee: Okay, tell me about that.

Orville: Well, you know, when we were children going to school, the parents expected, ah, the teacher to have order and maybe many a teacher didn't get to school second term if he was a little lax on his keeping order in the school. In fact, a lot of them the parents have found that used the whip. [Ranee: Uh huh.] Make them mind or if you didn't, they say, well, he just let them do as they please out there. So, ah, I think now the people are more or less, ah, let them do as they please.

Ranee: That's true. My teacher's do.

Orville: But, ah, now, this maybe oughtn't be recorded.

Ranee: You just say anything you want. We want anything you want to tell us about.

Orville: Well, the idea of a preacher calling up a principal and daring him not to touch his children in school. And, the principal said, "Now, what if they just do something else?" "So, you call me." And, the principal said, "Why, I'm too, I never have done that, and I think I'm too old to start that." Well, the preacher said, "You'll have me to contend with if you touch one of my children." [Ranee: Hmm.] No matter what they did. And, this principal was very lenient, and he said, "I could hear those children in the background." He was telling me; we talked for a half hour over the telephone. And, I could hear his children in the background, and they could hear everything he said, you know. I said, I told him, "I don't believe you're using a good method there where they hear what you were saying. And, ah, that just encourages them to do as they please." [Ranee: Uh huh.] And, then, see, I think that's more or less the way it is. In fact, some of the older teachers I believe would have, wouldn't fit in in today at all. I know Jackson told me I had to loosen up.

I used to be very strict, but he said I had to loosen up. He said they just wouldn't stand [/Ranee: Uh huh.] for it, the parents won't.

Ranee: Yeah. Ah, tell me about did you ever used to go to a grist mill or anything like that around here? [/Orville: What?] Did you ever used to go to a grist mill? [/Orville: Oh, yeah.] Tell me what you remember about that kind of thing.

Orville: Oh, we'd shell our corn maybe the night before. Some people had a corn sheller, and some just shelled by hand. Maybe a half a bushel or a bushel and put it in a not in a burlap sack but in what was called a meal sack. [/Ranee: Uh huh.] It would hold two bushel. Oh, on Saturday's they put start some boy, some of the boys, you know, went to mill, take his horse, and put the grist there in the saddle behind him, go to the mill, and Miller grind the corn and that made the corn bread. They made their corn bread with it, and it was really good corn bread. [/Ranee: Huh.] It wasn't burnt up. And, ah, the wheat the people didn't, ah, go to the store and buy flour. They most everybody raised wheat. They'd have it thrashed, and then take it to, ah, flouring mill. There were several flouring mills not too far away, and then have their flour ground or wheat ground into flour. They didn't buy it, and there wasn't too much people went to store to buy. Just some of the things that, ah, was not produced here in the country. [/Ranee: Uh huh.] The meat, they raised their own animals to kill for their meat. They had their eggs; they had their milk and all the vegetables they needed. They didn't, they didn't have to buy too much from the store.

Ranee: Like what would be an example of some of the things they bought from the store?

Orville: Oh, they'd buy coffee and sugar. And, buy a dollars worth of coffee was not ground. It was, it was, ah, in the grain, and they, people would have a coffee mill and grind their coffee. And, salt, they bought their salt and things like that, but, ah, not too much was it?

Oeida: No, and also ground their pepper.

Ranee: Pepper.

Oeida: Their pepper.

Orville: Bought their pepper at the store and their grain [/Oeida:
In the grain.] and put it in the coffee mill.

Olive: And, also they got the green coffee. Had, you remember
that. [/Oeida: Yeah. Green coffee.] Have to put in the stove.

Ranee: The two, ah, other ladies on the tape is my grandmother,
Olive Craig, who is 74, and Oeida Stone, Orville's wife, who is 68.

Olive: I was going to tell you 39 (laughter).

Oeida: Yeah.

Ranee: Ah, can you all remember how when you were young how they
used to preserve their foods, and can you tell me anything about
that?

Orville: Well, the meat, we would kill the hogs when the weather
would begin to get cold [/Ranee: Uh huh.] and, ah, have that. Then,
ah, after it cooled out, they would salt it. And, after maybe a
month or six weeks, they would, ah, wash that salt off and put a
preserver on. Maybe, ah, mix up brown sugar into a form of a
molasses, ah, pepper, and salt peter, and then take a knife and
flat knife, and then put it all over that meat [/Ranee: Uh huh.],
and then smoke it with hickory wood. And, have that smoked ham
meat, middling, shoulder.

Olive: Ground our own sausage.

Orville: Yes, ground our sausage.

Olive: Canned it, fried it down, put it in jars, filled it up (laughs).

Ranee: How did you preserve your fruits and vegetables?

Orville: We made apple butter. Take a big kettle. Ah, they would,
ah, peel the apples and core them, and slice them up, and put them
in this kettle, and take a big stir, and all day. They called it
all-day apple butter. They'd start and keep adding to it, and it
would be evening when they would, ah, take the butter off. And,
you want something good, now [/Ranee: Oh, boy, I bet that was.],
it really was. And, ah, few years ago there some state road men
came along while we were making apple butter here, and they wanted
to know what we were doing there. I said, "Making apple butter."

You want a taste of it?" And, they thought that was something wonderful. Never seen anything like that.

Ranee: How long ago was this? When was this?

Orville: Oh, just here five or six years ago [Ranee: Oh, yeah.] these men came here. They even marveled at that making apple butter outdoors. And, they dried apples. They women would dry apples. Sometimes they would put them up on a flat roof of a building after the women had peeled them and cored them and sliced them. [Ranee: Uh huh.] Put a big, ah, sheet up there and spread those apples out or maybe they would dry them in a building called a drying house. We had an evaporator there at home made out of metal, and you could, it had shelves that you put them in there and put a fire in it and dry them that way.

Olive: And, also at home we had strung them up on twine. Hung them in behind the stoves and dried them.

Ranee: How long does it take?

Olive: Oh, it would take a week or more.

Oeida: Yeah, take a week or more.

Orville: Whenever they got dried, you just put them in a container, sack, or poke, and then they would keep almost indefinitely, wouldn't they?

Ranee: Huh, and then you cooked them after they dried?

Oeida: Yeah, cooked them after they'd be dried apples.

Orville: Whenever you wanted them, and they did beans that way, too. [Oeida: Yeah.] A lot of times. Dry [Olive: Called them leather britches, leather britches, they were.], string the beans, and dry them, and called leather britches. Did you ever hear of that?

Ranee: No, I haven't heard of that.

Orville: And, dry those beans and when they were used, they'd be just as dry as they can be when, and rattle, and soak them in water, and cook them, and they was really good, too.

Ranee: Huh. What do you know?

Oeida: And, then what year about they would begin canning green beans?

Olive: We never canned beans at home, did we? I don't believe.

Oeida: No, I don't believe. We canned blackberries and made jelly...

Orville: Canning didn't come in till close to up in our time, did they?

Olive: No.

Orville: I know my mother said that, you know, they'd made butter, and then put it in big stone jars and old glass jars. She said they didn't know anything about it back when she was young. [/Ranee: Huh.] And, they, it would hold maybe a quart or half gallon or more. Had a little tin lid, didn't it? And, put, seal it with sealing wax, and it would keep here almost indefinitely Now, that's what they put the apple butter and pumpkin butter and things in. Said they didn't know anything about glass (inaudible) glass jars came along. The old stained glass went out of existence. Some people have a few for, get out, get out, and, ah, and I think they're pretty important now. You people like to have them for just [/Ranee: Yeah, yeah.] an antique.

Ranee: People, gosh, they pay.

Orville: I know my mother had several of them up there, oh, when she was still living but didn't use them or they'd use years ago glass jars. They're more the modern time.

Ranee: Uh huh, they're about stone crocks.

Orville: Uh huh. Now, when the pople, you had, had all families had cows. If you didn't have cows and chickens, you just wasn't much of a family. [/Ranee: You wasn't? Why's that?] They had their milk and made their butter. Some of them would even make cheese out of the milk. And, they didn't buy any eggs. They didnt go to the store and buy eggs. I was telling my children out here at school about I was 14 years old when I drank the first bottle of pop, and I know just where I drank it. Down there at the foot

of the hill at Redhouse there was a Jones had a store there, and we were going to the fair at Winfield and stopped there one September Day; and they got me a bottle of Coke-Cola, and I thought that was the finest thing. I just sipped so long on it. I was telling the children out here at school about it, and they'd just look at me, you know, just like. [Olive: Yeah, yeah.] I didn't think they believed me. I said we couldn't go to the store when I was your age and buy bananas or oranges or cakes or any kind of soft drink. I said it just wasn't there. You didn't, you couldn't go into any of these country stores when I was say 10, 12, 14 years old and buy a loaf of bread. Maybe at Christmastime they would bring on a few bananas and oranges, but that would be the only time. [Ranee: Huh.] They'd look at me and just like I don't think they believed me. See, they could go down there to any little grocery store and buy any of those things, and I don't really think they thought that was it.

Ranee: Huh. What was Thanksgiving like when you all were growing up?

Orville: Well, it.

Oeida: Practically another day.

Orville: Yeah, just about another day. Several teachers out at our school said we should give thanks that day for our lives and all we had, but I don't think we did. I don't think we remembered much then. It was kind of vacation day from school. All the boys liked to go rabbit hunting on Thanksgiving. [Ranee: Uh huh.] Same way with Christmas. Oh, that was a little more important. We would have, ah, what we'd call a treat at school. Now, it was appreciated. Ah, the treat generally consisted of a little poke of stick candy. I call it poke. I guess they call it something else now. But, maybe 12, 15 sticks of hard candy. But, we thought that was a pretty good darn treat. [Ranee: Huh.] But, now.

Olive: So hard they break your teeth off.

Orville: Out at the school I know the principal called the teachers together one day. "And, now, what are we going to get them?" Here, said, "They have all the fruit, all the candy, and everything they want." Said, "They don't appreciate anything." And, ah, I saw some of them after they had given out would throw the candy up here in the lights, had these bowls like that. [Ranee: Uh huh.] Seeing who

could throw the candy up in that. /Ranee: Oh./ Now, that's, that's the difference. We, we held to our little poke of candy. It was precious to us, because we didn't get candy everyday. And, we wanted that to last just about as long as it possibly would. At least that was the way I did. I don't know whether your mother and your grandmother and aunt here did the same thing or not. That was, that was my thoughts of it.

Oeida: Yeah, yeah, we all did. Well, is the time about run out?

Ranee: Uh uh. We've got plenty of time.

Orville: Now, what else you want?

Ranee: Well, ah, did they have stage coaches around when you were a little boy?

Orville: No, buggies and wagons.

Olive: Oh, yeah, that first undertaker at Buffalo.

Orville: But, he didn't get back out in there unless he was bringing some body /Olive: To meet the train./ in on the river (inaudible). If someone died in the community, they just, just lay them out. That's what they said.

Ranee: Tell me about that. How did they go about that?

Orville: Well, I never did see any but one and if it was a man then some of the men in the neighborhood would wash him and dress him, and they'd go someplace to get a casket. Now, here they went to Rock Castle most of the time. There was an old man over there that kept caskets.

Ranee: Did he make them or?

Orville: No, I think he bought them, and you go over there and get you a casket. Lay it back, and put the corpse in it, and then take him to a church if he had a funeral or to the graveyard, and maybe have the funeral in the home. And, then take him to the cemetery and bury him. Well, the hearse that come out over here then once in a while one would come from Buffalo if someone was shipped down there. Maybe from some place else, and one would take and bring him out. Back there wagons and buggies and horseback

and on foot was the way you travelled. [Ranee: Yeah. Did you?] If a boy had a horse or a buggy, he was just, you, he was just a little better than the rest of them.

Ranee: What did you do for recreation when you were growing up?

Orville: There wasn't, wasn't very much recreation. Plenty of hard work through the week, and on Sunday's if, maybe if you were pretty good size of age, you might go courting on Sunday afternoon, and that may be riding a horse or walking.

Ranee: What did you do when you went courting? Tell me about that.

Orville: Huh? (laughs) Well, I don't know if that was much different than it is now or not. [Oeida: We didn't have a car to go riding in ...] We didn't have no cars to get out and go very far. You never got to see your girlfriend in her home, and, ah, it was a pretty quiet life. Oh, once in a while there would be a ball game some place on Sunday in the summertime, and boys and girls go to the ball game, but they couldn't go very far. They didn't have a means of travel.

Ranee: About how far would they go? How many miles?

Orville: Oh, not over eight or ten I wouldn't think. And, that was pretty good if you didn't have a horse. You didn't walk very far better than eight or ten miles a day. It had to be rather close, and the roads weren't good to start with. [Ranee: Uh huh.] All dirt roads.

Ranee: You didn't have electric did you?

Orville: No, electricity, no, no. We didn't.

Oeida: And, and occasionally they'd be a pie supper on a Saturday night.

Ranee: A pie supper?

Orville: A pie supper or a cream supper, an ice cream supper in the summertime. [Ranee: Uh huh.] They'd maybe, some storekeeper would, ah, have a cream supper in the summertime. And, that was mostly young people went to them; sometimes the old. And, then in the winter, at schools, maybe nearly every school would have a

pie supper to collect a little money in for the school. That's the only way we had of getting any extra money if we needed anything for the schoolhouse. And, the board of education wasn't very liberal at buying anything.

Ranee: How much would a bowl of ice cream cost?

Orville: Five cents.

Ranee: Five cents. How about a piece of pie?

Orville: Now more than, well.

Olive: They'd auction the pies off.

Orville: They'd auction the pie off. They would bring anywhere from, oh, twenty cents up. It depended on you, if some boy had quite a little bit of money and his girlfriend happened to have put a pie there. And, someone, sometimes they would double up on him, bid it up [Oeida: And, make him pay.] knowing that he would want her pie. They'd, they'd pick up one. It would run up sometime maybe more than a dollar. [Ranee: Uh huh.] They'd usually I'd say twenty, thirty, forty cents. They'd auction them off. That was how then. They were pretty well attended to. They would, ah, they'd come a pretty long distance to a pie supper. Maybe they have one at one schoolhouse one Saturday night, and then some other teacher over someplace else would have one. It was for the purpose of the schools.

Ranee: Uh huh. Oh, and tell me how it was when you all was teenagers? Can you tell me anything Mawmaw?

Olive: Well, all the place we went was church, Sunday School. Wasn't no place else to go.

Ranee: How did you meet Pawpaw?

Olive: At an ice cream supper.

Ranee: You did? Can you tell me about that?

Oeida: (Laughs) Really did you Olive? [Olive: Yeah, yeah.] I never did know that.

Olive: Down at Grace's. That's where I met him at a supper.

Oeida: Well, I know she slipped off and got married (laughs).

Ranee: She did? Tell me about that.

Olive: Oh, shoot, I don't want that on that tape.

Ranee: Tell me about that Oeida.

Oeida: I don't know too much about it. She (laughs) done it, done it without being known to any of us.

Ranee: Well, did you get in trouble for it?

Olive: No.

Orville: No, she didn't come back to get in trouble.

Oeida: She, ah, how, Olive, tell me did you put one (laughter) dress on over the top of the other?

Olive: No, no we went out to Graces. /Oeida: I know you did./ You know, on a Sunday, and Oscar stayed down at Aunt Clara's, you know, for a few days. I took my dress.

Oeida: Well, I didn't know that.

Ranee: Whereabouts did you get married Mawmaw?

Olive: Buffalo.

Ranee: Buffalo. Whereabouts down there?

Olive: Oh, I don't know what you call it. There a little house a Preacher Farmer lived right there on the corner as you go out Eighteen Mile Creek. Preacher lived right there. That's where we got married.

Ranee: ^UHow, how old were you?

Olive: I was 21.

Ranee: And, how old was Pawpaw?

Olive: He was about 23.

Ranee: Well.

Olive: Two years older when we met.

Ranee: Tell me about when Pawpaw used to.

SIDE TWO

Orville: He wasn't satisfied.

Olive: Oh, no, now, I ain't going, you ain't going to get me talking any more (laughter) like I'm down in the back.

Orville: Now, listen, if we hear of you girls going down there and playing that and making fun of us (laughter). Oeida: I expect they will. I don't know how we'll retaliate, but, now, I wonder, course you're not, you won't, can't go back as far as we can. I expect you know about some of the country life.

Olive: Why, sure.

Oeida: Yeah. I know some teachers would travel miles. Orville: Huh? I know some teachers would travel miles to teach school on horses.

Orville: Anyway, to get to school, walk.

Olive: Why, I went to school and waded snow to my knees!

Orville: Henry Bush and (inaudible) Oscar Diamond and I went to see him when he was sick telling him I said, "Mr. Knapp, if you had some kind of measuring device on you that would have registered the miles, how many miles?" Oh, he said, "You couldn't have read the number. (Inaudible)." (Inaudible).

Olive: Well (inaudible), walked from Spring Branch to New Jersey. Orville: Yeah. I tell you. And, he is the best school teacher that I ever went to.

Orville: Yeah (inaudible) all right.

Olive: The best one that I ever went to. Learned more.

Orville: I told, ah, McClean, now I said, "Here at these teacher's meetings you leaders the last of the talents." I said, "Now, (inaudible)." Wasn't one of those men shoved forward and showed himself. To see him, why, watch him, you'd think he didn't know anything, but I said, "He had brains." Olive: He sure did. The children showed it what they made. Well, now, I said, "I never called on (inaudible), you know, to get up there Olive: No. and give any of his experience, but they'd send them fellows up there on (inaudible) Hill, Hurricane. They was all so big shots. He was setting up there, and I said, "Now, I know where ever I speak (inaudible) smart.

Oeida: Absolutely.

Olive: Why, I went, I went through the eighth grade twice. I went to school to him two different terms. Yes sir.

Oeida: Did you take the eighth grade test or did they give it back then?

Olive: Why, they didn't, they didn't give it.

Orville: No, they didn't give it.

Olive: I went through that eighth grade twice (laughs). Orville: I remember. Just wanted to go to school.

Orville: Only one teacher there give me report card at school. Ranee: Hmm. Only one.

Oeida: Well, Orville, do you remember the time that we had, ah, spelling bees, you know, there wasn't anybody left on the floor but me and you? Do you remember that? I'm not, you know, not bragging on myself, but, anyway, I know I'll never will forget Orville said, I'm not going to waste my breath spelling against me (laughter). He quit ...

Orville: We've got a picture in there (inaudible) was in it, but you're the only one that doesn't, she said she could explain why you were there. (Inaudible) had his overalls on, (inaudible) Bertha, who was as tall as Henry, and out of that whole group I think there is four or five of them dead.

Oeida: Yes sir. I never will forget that.

Olive: One word I'll never forget how to spell as long as I live, and Elvin Barnett was the teacher then, and it was impotent. And, I, I pronounced it wrong I reckon. I missed that word, and I don't think I'll never forget how to spell that as long as I live. It's (spells) i-m-p-o-t-e-n-t. And, I pronounced it a different way and missed, and missed it.

Oeida: Called them spelling matches then. [Olive: Yeah.] Usually had them on Friday afternoon, didn't they?

Olive: Yeah, yeah, yeah, Friday aftertoon. Get up there, you know, a whole class. Whenever anybody would, ah, miss a word, why, they'd have to go down to that end of the, end of the, the foot of the class. And, then they'd just keep a turning one another down, you know, outspelling them.

Oeida: I never will forget one night that me and Orville left on the floor, and he, he just quit. He said he wasn't going to wear out his lungs spelling against me (laughter).

Orville: One, one time, first time I ever taught school out there at, oh, at Clendenin I didn't know any of the children. And, maybe four or five weeks here in come a girl. I'd say she was maybe 13 or 14 wearing gum boots. Well, I looked her over, you know, and what have I got here today? She come up to read. I just stopped, and she was one of the most beautiful readers I ever heard. [Oeida: Well, what do you know.] I just dropped my book and listened. I was so badly fooled. I thought, you know, by coming in here six weeks late that, that she was just a drop in that winter. And, we just gave her one trial; she missed three words by just giving one trial. And, I'll never forget one, one of the words was committee, and she left out either one of the t's or one of the e's and one was courteous. That was the word she missed. She could have, she could have went anywhere.

Ranee: Who was it one of the French girls?

Orville: Mary French. [Ranee: Mawmaw and Oeida.] Never got to go too far.

Ranee: Tell me about the midwives that used to be out in here.

Olive: Oh, good Lord! You don't want that stuff on there! No, my gosh, no!

Orville: You'll have to ask them about that (laughs).

Ranee: Ask you about it?

Orville: No, you'll have to ask them that (laughter). That's kind of out of my line.

Olive: Oh, my God, you don't want that on there, Ranee. No, honey, that's, that's too personal.

Ranee: Well, tell me, did, tell me about some superstitions people used to have.

Olive: Well, I don't know of any.

Orville: People weren't too superstitious out here, were they?

Olive: No, uh uh.

Orville: Some of them, ah, believed if you didn't, if you started anything on Friday, you never finished it. Now, your Grandfather Adkinson was that way.

Ranee: Did what?

Orville: He believed if you started anything on Friday you wouldn't finish it. I know one time he had (inaudible) down here, and he came down here on Thursday and dug the bushel. Says, he didn't want to start on Friday. Yeah, I think it was a bushel he was going to dig on Friday, and he didn't want to start them on, start digging over there, so he came down on Thursday evening. There was a lot of people that did believe in that. I know when they drilled this, ah, gas well out here at Bill's they had to run a line from down here at Eighteen, a water line, and they was just working those fellows like horses. Said they wanted to start on Thursday evening to drill if they only drilled a foot or two. To them they wouldn't start on Friday till they got it layed till they started in late Thursday evening drilling that there (inaudible). Of course, these drillers I don't know where they were from. Ah, Clay Brothers had the rig. Well, I thought that was funny. I went out there and passed those fellows when they was running the line under the road through the tile. Well, I said they ought to had some mules here. Said they was about to work us to death. They wanted to get that hooked in so they could start drilling.

And, I laughed at them. I said, (Inaudible), and they wouldn't if they didn't drill a little bit on Thursday; they wouldn't drill it till Monday.

Ranee: Do you believe in signs of the moon?

Orville: No. Some people do, but I don't. Some won't plant anything only at certain Olive: Yeah, a lot of people goes by the moon. phases of the moon. I said, I said, "Just plant it in the ground (laughs)." But, you take (inaudible), she wouldn't set out any kind of plant unless she'd consult the almanac. Oeida: Almanac maybe. Olive: Yeah, a lot of people, a lot of people goes by that. I know a fellow back of that house over there (inaudible) spring and all wet and just his ground was rich as could be. (Inaudible) was going to put him out a cucumber patch there. He'd worked that ground up, and Miss Bowling, "Now what you doing?" said, she said, you why, he said, "Miss Bowling, this ground would grow anything." And, she said, "You're planting in the wrong time in the sign of the flower." And, he just laughed at her and said, (Inaudible). He didn't have nothing but a rose bed there that year. He said they just bloomed and bloomed and don't think he got a cucumber off of them.

Olive: Well, yeah, a lot of people goes by that.

Orville: And, after that he said, "Well, there must be something in it. Miss Bowling warned me, and I just laughed at her."

Olive: Pearl and all of them went out to (inaudible) this afternoon. They all left after church for a cookout, and I just wonder, I forgot to ask them wonder if, ah, Bessie was going to go with them.

Ranee: Wait a minute!

Olive: Going to ruin that for you. Quit, you better quit when you're ahead.

Ranee: Tell me about your plaque here. Tell me about this plaque you've got here.

Orville: Well, I have two of them I got them on some soil practices or conservation practices making, ah, conversion ditch. It was one of the outstanding according to the man that laid it off. He said, there was some state men in here looked at it, passed it, and said

they was one of the finest that they had ever seen put up. I don't know, I think it was, I forget how many feet long it was. It took the water, and it came off the hill down to the creek. /Ranee: Uh huh./ And, ah, I was awarded this for some of the things I did. I don't know whether I deserved it or not, but they brought it to me. Offered me a trip to Jackson Mills free of charge, and Oeida wanted me to go. I didn't. /Ranee: Mawmaw and Oeida./ I got two of them two different years.

Olive: I've never seen that before. I seen it anyway; I seen it in the paper.

Ranee: Can you all tell me anything about when you all was growing up at home?

Oeida: Oh, I don't know. We just had to work like a mule (laughs). We'd get a new dress, ah, made out of (inaudible). We'd have to slip out of the back door to go to (whispering in background). You don't want that on that tape. I think you've already got it on there.

Ranee: Now, tell me.

Orville: You better watch what you're saying.

Ranee: I want to know everything you can think of. Come on. Well, that's what they want. Now, you slipped out the back door. Why?

Oeida: Oh, we weren't allowed the second dress hardly to our back. /Ranee: Oh./ If we didn't have.

Orville: We didn't have, didn't have all kind of finery.

Oeida: One pair of shoes a summer, and we tried to keep ^{them} for Sunday.

Orville: The best thing about it we was all in the same boat. One guy couldn't look up and say, look down on someone else because he wasn't dressed up to par. We was just about all in the same boat. They don't take any medicine. They don't know anything about it.

Oeida: You want to know something about (inaudible)?

Ranee: Yeah.

Orville: We just went after the doctor, and then sometimes (inaudible) and treat them for that. Maybe, ah, I want to ask a question now, and you can answer that one.

Ranee: Okay.

Orville: Now, what is the difference between the way a horse and a cow lies down and rises?

Ranee: You're asking the wrong person.

Orville: Well, now, course you never was in, ah, lived in the country to observe these things.

Oeida: Well, she raised horses, though, she.

Orville: Did you ever notice how they lie down and rise up?

Ranee: Ah, does a cow bend his knees?

Orville: Well, now, a horse gets up on his front feet first, and then up on his hind feet. And, a cow just the opposite. She gets up on her hind feet first, and then gets up on her front. Now, course it is not know why they do that, but theories of what they think the cattle is more of a (inaudible). And, when they were disturbed if they were lying down, see, they would get up, they'd raise up, and they could still look under the brush until they, so they, until they risen. But, a horse being a grass animal in high grass it was important that he see just as long as he could, so he could come up on his front feet first, and he could observe what all was disturbing him. I try to think that they do that or did that, and they just inherited that trait. And, well, I, it's kind of interesting to observe animals. A school teacher came here one day, and we went to Pond Creek and looking at cattle said, "They're a dumb thing." I said, "Not as dumb as you think they are." Now, I said, "A cow can take a calf and hide it, and she'll work all the way around it. If you go around her you won't observe that calf unless you take a dog or something along then maybe she would run right to that calf. And, how she would get that calf, you know, to lie still maybe all day, and she'd work all along it and just unconcerned like there wasn't no calf there." Now, I said, "Now, they know their own calf, and you can't fool no matter how many calves in the field or how well much they look alike. She knows her calf from any of the others." And, I said,

"They're not dumb. They may act dumb in some ways, but they're not dumb."

Olive: Oeida, about your brown material have you tried to get (inaudible). No use to try. I can't get it.

Orville: Let's take the cost of, ah, funerals. Now, I was down at Buffalo one time in a little museum and an old undertaker there, Bob Blake, well, there was a receipt for a burial. And, on this receipt was a picture of a horse-drawn hearse. What do you suppose the funeral expense was?

Ranee: I don't know.

Orville: Twenty dollars. A receipt for \$20 for a funeral.

Ranee: When was this?

Orville: Oh, I don't know. A long time ago. But, it was in a fellow had a little kind of a relic house down there below Buffalo, and I was in there. And, he had pictures up agin the wall. Old man Blake died in 1924, and so it was sometime prior to that. He was the undertaker there at Buffalo at that time.

Ranee: Did you ever raise any sheep?

Orville: What?

Ranee: Did you ever raise any sheep?

Orville: Oh, my dad did, yeah.

Ranee: Tell me what they did. How they raised those.

Orville: Well, I was kind of the shepherd there for a year or two, take care of the sheep. Oh, he had maybe 50, 60 head of sheep, and, ah, he kept the sheep too close to the barn of night. I don't know why he did it. They didn't like barn, you know, they can stand a lot of cold. So, they would generally bring the lambs in the spring of the year, and they'd have maybe one or two. Occasionally three, not often, and then about May you sheared the sheep. The first sheared wool I did was with clippers. My brother and I started on the first sheep we got was a little Marino. They're hard to shear. We liked to wore ourselves out on that one, but the next one we got

was a nice fat sheep. We sheared the sheep one year, did the wool up, put it through something that not many people ever saw was a wool press. Dad had a wool press. I tried to explain it to a feller last night. You opened it up, you just on hinges, and you laid it down, put the fleece in there, folded it up nice, and turn it inside out, and turned the crank. (Inaudible) in little squares just about like that, and you sewed it with wool twine, special twine about, oh, about as long as my finger. And, you had a big wooden needle made out of a piece of hickory wood, but you, hickory and cut you an eye in it, and put you about three strings. Whenever you pressed that you could knock a person down it was just that solid. Dad bought that at a sale and when the barn burned up out there it burned that wool press. He said he hated that more than anything else in that barn despite of all the feed and lumber he lost, it was that wool press he had in there. That was the only one I ever saw. Then, ah, on the far you sell the lambs, sell the wool sometime during the summer, and then the lambs would be sold in the fall. Keep the old sheep over. They got so they wasn't, an old sheep don't produce plenty of wool. They get kind of ragged, then they'd get rid of these old ones. They young ones, yearling had more wool than at any other time. That was funny about that. A good yearling sheep would shear more than at any other age. Then the older they got the lighter their coat of wool was.

Ranee: Did you ever go out to Grandpa Adkinson's Grist Mill?

Orville: Oh, yes.

Ranee: Tell me about that.

Orville: Oh, we'd go out there. Usually they operated the mill on Saturday, and we'd take a load of feed over ground for cattle and (inaudible) make meal, too. Sometimes they would grind there all day and wouldn't get through there and have to finish up on Monday. People really patronized these grist mills especially in the winter when they'd grind feed for the stock to feed along with.

Ranee: Huh. Daddy used to tell me about, ah, ah, taking grain out to the grist mill and, ah, you know, and getting some of their corn and things grined, and then trading some of what they had ground for some sugar and coffee. Did you do that?

Orville: No, no ...

Oeida: A lot of times they would give so much, ah, corn, yeah, give so much corn for grinding. Yeah.

Orville: And, if you had a bushel of corn you took out out of that one eighth of it, and he'd pour it over a barrel or box and when he got ready to grind it, he'd grind that.

Oeida: For his own use.

Orville: Huh?

Oeida: Grind it for his own use.

Olive: Yeah.

Ranee: He didn't charge money?

Orville: Didn't charge money, no. He'd just take part of the ...

Olive: Oeida can tell you about the blacksmith he, he had.

Ranee: Tell me about that.

Orville: He had a pretty interesting place on Saturday. Store, blacksmith shop, and grist mill. In the wintertime people would come, you know, to have their horses shod and maybe come to mill, too, go to store. It was very active around there.

Oeida: A big place on Saturday.

Orville: But, now, to just look at it now how it nothing like that now. Just all the wood and boards.

Oeida: Now, that would be your great grandpa. You better put that in there yourself.

Ranee: Huh?

Oeida: That's your great grandfather.

Orville: Had blacksmith, post office, country store.

Oeida: And store and grist mill. Yeah.

Ranee: What's that?

Orville: Saw mill, cleaned lumber, saved them, and then clean it, smooth it.

Ranee: I recorded this at the beginning of the tape, but it didn't pick up. My name is Ranee Phelps, and I'm a graduate student in Appalachian Cultures. I have interviewed Orville Stone, who is 74, Olive Craig, who is 74, and Oeida Stone, who is 68. Their home is in Liberty, West Virginia, and Olive Craig lives at Nitro, West Virginia.

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